

Navy Center for Innovation

daily blog watch

Blogs relevant to naval operations/warfare, policy, and innovation are monitored for items of interest. Some items include a brief description. If you would like to recommend a blog site for inclusion, or want to be removed from the list please contact Mike Perron at: robert.m.perron.ctr@navy.mil

Also, please check out the new NWDC Navy Center for Innovation Blog at:

<https://www.nwdc.navy.mil/ncoi/blog/>

February 13, 2013

1. WIRED: DANGER ROOM

Pentagon Inks Deal for Smartphone Tool That Scans Your Face, Eyes, Thumbs: “A California company has inked a research contract with the Pentagon for a biometrics identification system that can be hosted on a smartphone.”

2. SMALL WARS JOURNAL

Do National Interests Extend Past the Atmosphere?: “The belief that space conflict is inevitable is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Dozens of corporations, defense contractors, as well as national space programs have space weapons in development, with states quick to respond to perceived ‘gaps’ in their space security apparatus vis-à-vis others.”

3. OTHER BLOGS (Rotating, based on relevant content)

BUSINESS INSIDER

Why Homegrown Terrorists Go Abroad Instead Of Staying In The West: “Hegghammer says the lack of a clear distinction this has caused governments to dedicate resources in the most inefficient way possible. Setting up costly surveillance and domestic security apparatus — like the NYPD wire-tapping program in New Jersey or the headline making Transportation Security Agency — doesn't do much to “discourage” the likeliest candidates for domestic attacks.”

Iran's Photoshopping Skills Are Much More Dangerous Than Their New Jet: “The only technological miracle in this alleged flight of the Qahar 313 fighter over Mount Damavand is that someone at the Iranian defense ministry appears to have upgraded to Photoshop CS6 since the last copy-and-paste job went viral.”

FAST COMPANY

What If Everything Could Be A Solar Panel?: “‘There was a significant effort to develop these type of devices [in the last few years], and the slope of this improvement is very high,’ says Gradecak. ‘In just a couple of years, power conversion efficiency [of new flexible solar cells] has gone from less than 0.1 percent to 5% to 7%.’”

GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE

Welcome to the Future: Congress Takes on 3-D Printing: “3-D printing also holds implications for the half-trillion dollars in annual defense appropriations. Banning Garrett, director of the Atlantic Council’s Strategic Foresight Initiative, predicts that rather than purchasing physical equipment and replacement parts, much military spending will be redirected to the purchase of designs. Spare parts will be printed at the point of use as the need arises.”

TIME MAGAZINE BATTLELAND BLOG

Forget Drones. The Real Problem Is “War Without Boundaries”: “This theme of a global battlefield has become common and accepted. And what Jacobson, Coughlin, and others are saying, of course, is partially true: that terrorists and gangsters are not confined by lines on a map. But somewhere along the way, we redefined the words *war* and *battlefield*. Let’s take a step back and re-examine what this means.”

WIRED MAGAZINE (OTHER)

[Can You Feel Me Now? The Sensational Rise of Haptic Interfaces](#): “Haptics is to touch the way optics is to sight. It's a user interface that circumvents the cluttered inputs of sight and sound, and it's appearing in an increasing number of objects we interact with daily.”

[Clayton Christensen Wants to Transform Capitalism](#): “Sixteen years ago a book by Clayton Christensen changed business thinking forever. *The Innovator's Dilemma* looked at industries ranging from disk drives to steel to mechanical excavators and exposed a surprising phenomenon: When big companies fail, it's often not because they do something wrong but because they do everything right.”

4. FROM THE READERS:

THE GLOBALIST

[Is China Playing With American Fire?](#): “Fired by superheated growth, dizzy from an elixir of new weapons systems and now deeply indulged by the Xi Jinping leadership, the Chinese security establishment lacks an institutional memory (and a formalized decision-making process) to remind themselves how durable, ruthless and tough Americans can be once they see someone coming hard at them. This is not good.”